

Listing of Claims:

1-55. (Cancelled).

56. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 55~~ A method for amplifying a nucleic acid molecule, said method comprising

_____ (a) mixing an RNA template with a composition comprising a purified thermostable template-dependent DNA polymerase from the species *Bacillus stearothermophilus* type strain 5 comprising reverse transcriptase activity in the presence of magnesium ions at a concentration of at least one mM and in the substantial absence of manganese ions to form a mixture; and

_____ (b) incubating said mixture under conditions sufficient to amplify a DNA molecule complementary to all or a portion of said RNA template,

further comprising a second DNA polymerase having 3' exonuclease activity and a third DNA polymerase having substantially reduced 3' exonuclease activity,

wherein the unit ratio of said polymerase in claim 1 to said second and third DNA polymerase is from about 0.25:1 to about 16:1.

57. (Original) A kit comprising, in a packaged form, separate containers comprising:

(a) a purified thermostable template-dependent DNA polymerase from the species *Bacillus stearothermophilus* comprising reverse transcriptase activity; and

(b) a solution that provides magnesium ions at a concentration of at least 1 mM and in the substantial absence of manganese ions.

58. (Original) The kit of claim 57, wherein said polymerase is a mutated or truncated form of *Bacillus stearothermophilus*.

59. (New) A method for preparing one or more cDNA molecules from one or more RNA templates, the method comprising incubating said RNA templates in a buffer solution containing dNTPs and one or more primers complementary to at least a portion of one or more of the RNA templates with a purified DNA polymerase derived from *Bacillus stearothermophilus* (Bst) type strain 5 in the presence of at least 1 mM magnesium ions and in the substantial absence of manganese ions, whereby cDNA molecules complementary to one or more of the RNA templates are obtained.

60. (New) The method of claim 59 wherein the purified DNA polymerase is full-length Bst DNA polymerase type strain 5.

61. (New) The method of claim 59 wherein the purified DNA polymerase is a truncated large fragment of full-length Bst DNA polymerase type strain 5, wherein the fragment: (a) has a mass of about 55 to about 65 kDA as determined by 10% SDS PAGE; (b) lacks 5'-to-3' exonuclease activity; and (c) has reverse transcriptase activity in the presence of magnesium ions and in the substantial absence of manganese ions.

62. (New) The method of claim 59 wherein the purified DNA polymerase is obtained by subtilisin proteolysis of full-length Bst DNA polymerase type strain 5.

63. (New) The method of claim 59 wherein the magnesium ion concentration is about 1 mM to about 10 mM.

64. (New) The method of claim 59 wherein the primers that are complementary to at least a portion of the RNA templates are selected from the group consisting of: (a) target-specific primers; (b) oligo(dT) primers; and (c) random primers.

65. (New) The method of claim 59 wherein said polymerase is modified or mutated to reduce or eliminate 3'-5' exonuclease activity.